

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ  
**HISTORY CENTER**  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

**MARTIN R. DELANY SYMPOSIUM**

***Martin R. Delany: Before and Beyond the Civil War***

**Call for Papers**

**August 26-27, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA**

**Submission Deadline: May 31, 2022**

The African American Program at the Senator John Heinz History Center invites proposals for presentation at its 1st Annual Martin R. Delany Symposium to be held August 26-27, 2022, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and hosted by the African American Program at the Senator John Heinz History Center.

The year 2022 marks the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Martin R. Delany (b. May 6, 1812). Born in Charles Town, Virginia to a free mother, Pati and enslaved father, Samuel, Delany would live under the yoke of racial oppression. His youth and young adult years would be spent in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where his education in abolitionism, enterprise, medicine, and journalism would set him apart from other abolitionists, especially in Pittsburgh. Delany would become a significant publisher of the first African American newspaper west of the Allegheny Mountains, *The Mystery*. In the 1850s Delany would enroll in Harvard Medical School and assume the leadership of the National Emigration Convention a decade before President Lincoln would commission him a Major of the 104<sup>th</sup> USCI in 1865 making him the highest ranking African American field officer in the US Army.

The Symposium welcomes paper proposals or panels that address Delany's life and legacy as a freedom fighter, politician, journalist, physician, author, emigration activist, and other titles. Individual papers would be added to a panel of similar subject.

The structure of the academic program will have two sessions. Each session will be framed by a keynote address. The morning session keynote will Richard J. Blackett, distinguished Delany scholar and Andrew Jackson Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. This session will discuss Delany before the Civil War; born free in a slave state, migration to a free state; becoming an abolitionist; travel the country, Africa, and the world in search of total freedom. The afternoon session keynote will be Dr. Tunde Adeleke, professor of history and director of African and African American Studies at Iowa State University. This session will present Delany from the Civil War; politics in South Carolina; Reconstruction era; to the end of his life and his impact on the African American struggle into the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. What ideas did Delany present that have had reference with the Civil Rights Movement, BLM Movement and other movements focused on freedom.

Listed below are suggested topics for session proposals

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|-----------------------------|---|
| • Slavery and Abolitionism  | Emigration                                  |
| • Fraternal Order – Masonry | Delany and his Contemporaries               |
| • Civil War                 | Delany in Africa, Europe, and North America |
| • Reconstruction Politics   | Writer and Publisher                        |
| • Entrepreneurship          | Medical Practice                            |
| • Delany and Art            | Delany, Modern Medicine, and the Pandemic   |

Proposals should be submitted in electronic form, one thousand words or less, double spaced, either Calibri or Times New Roman font. A title should be clearly listed at the top of the page accompanied by name and contact information. Please inform the proposal if your presentation needs audio/video technology (power point, film, video, sound, etc.). Please submit proposals to:

Samuel W Black  
 Director, African American Program  
 Senator John Heinz History Center  
[Delany.symposium@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:Delany.symposium@heinzhistorycenter.org)